

# THE SPIRITUAL ISSUES OF THE WAR

*This bulletin is published for readers at home and abroad by the Religions Division of the Ministry of Information, London, to elucidate the spiritual issues at stake in the war, and to provide information concerning the British Churches in wartime, as well as their contribution to post-war reconstruction.*

Number 245

July 13th, 1944

## SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR CHINA IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

A special service under the auspices of the United Aid to China Fund was held at St. Paul's Cathedral on July 7th, 1944, the seventh anniversary of the beginning of the war between Japan and China. The lesson was read by the Chinese Ambassador, Dr. Wellington Koo. Others taking part in the service was the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Dr. Henry Townsend, and the Archdeacon of London, the Ven. E. N. Sharpe.

The sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop took as his text II Samuel, x. 12: "Be of good courage and let us play the man for our people and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth Him good."

"Once more on this 7th day of July," said Dr. Temple, "we meet together that we may be united with our allies and friends, the people of China, in recollection of their heroic endurance in resistance to aggression and in re-dedication of our strength to the cause of national freedom. We should have it constantly in our minds that the Chinese are our senior partners in this enterprise. Long before we had faced the challenge of the typical modern devil, China was facing it. Our people sympathized with her from the outset; but as a nation we gave no help more material than sympathy. She was attacked as later Russia and the United States were attacked. But when China was attacked, the peoples who care for freedom, not only as a possession but as a principle, had not yet learnt that in defence of the principle all must be united. We were prepared to let each victim of aggression win deliverance if it could; our very conception of freedom as we held it at that time pointed in that direction. So China was left to struggle alone, and to win the

bitter pride of being the senior partner of what is now the common cause.

"Let us be sure that we learn the lesson of experience. In the modern world the various nations are so closely interlocked that the attitude of each to the fundamental principles of life becomes the concern of all. We are not concerned with the internal organization of other nations, their use or avoidance of Parliamentary systems and the like. But we are very much concerned with the moral principles on which their Governments act, both towards their own subjects and otherwise. And all nations who set store by justice or by freedom, not as possessions to be enjoyed or treasures to be claimed, but as principles to be honoured, are bound together in a unity alike of service and of self-interest. From this time onwards, every aggressor is every nation's enemy. And we must accept the burden of responsibility and sacrifice laid upon us by our recognition of that truth.

"As we meet, the South of England is again in the front line of the battle. Many had hoped that for us the days of bombing-raids were over. Perhaps we even allowed ourselves to slip into an unconscious feeling that the endurance of the war is now only for those who fight beyond the seas and that our own testing time was past. If so, it may be wholesome for us to be brought back by the flying bombs into the full fellowship of endurance as well as of service. Certainly we are able now, and are ready, to take our place among those whose lives and homes are at hazard, and as we take it to 'be of good courage and play the man.'

"This may help us to revive and deepen our fellow feeling with the Chinese people in their far longer trial. We know of the destruction of their cities and their univer-

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**BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES**

*An Agency of The British Government*

**30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.**



sities; we know of the noble enthusiasm which has led to the re-founding of their cultural centres and their educational institutions, where eagerness and devotion go far to make up for heart-breaking shortage of equipment. To all other causes of dismay has been added a fearful diminution in the value of money, so that even good salaries are no safeguard against poverty and want. Yet the spirit of China has never wavered, nor her faith in her cause lost vigour.

"At this moment, when elsewhere the cause of freedom is rapidly gaining strength, China is threatened with new dangers. In the long run, of course, the success of the allied arms is the means to the deliverance of China, and if prospects are brighter for the rest of us they are therefore brighter also for her. But in the meanwhile the enemy may inflict grievous injury and cause untold misery. The latest Japanese thrusts involve new perils. We ought to be better acquainted with the course of the war in China than we are; increased knowledge would lead to deeper sympathy and more effectual help.

"We are asked to give our help through the United Aid to China Fund. I trust the response will be generous. China's need is urgent, and the inflation to which I have referred increases in a very serious degree her difficulties in meeting them. By doing our utmost we shall not only provide help where it is needed and where every consideration of sympathy and compassion urges it, but we shall also do much to strengthen those bonds of friendship between ourselves and China, which will be of the utmost value and importance when peace returns.

"Above all, let us be sure that our prayer for China is constant and earnest; when we pray for our country and its allies, let China have a foremost place in our thoughts. Pre-occupation with the nearer conflict and the great distance that separates us from the Far East combine to thrust that earliest and still most bitter struggle into the background. To let that happen is both ungenerous and unwise. The part that China will play in the world is bound to be of most momentous consequence. Her vast population, her strong and stabilizing tradition, her standard of trustworthiness, her immense resources and her inexhaustible patience mark her as inevitably destined to exercise far-reaching influence and leadership. Let us be instant in prayer that her spirit may be upheld and her needs supplied until aggression is crushed and banished from the earth, and that then with her comrades she may take her place, supplying to the cultural treasury of mankind her unique gifts puri-

fied by endurance and perfected in dedication."

## CHURCH SERVICES ON THE BOMB ROUTE

The Bishop of Rochester writes in his *Diocesan Chronicle*:

"The first matter concerns the winged bombs which are passing overhead even as I write. Please God, by the time you read this letter, this 'terror by night' and 'arrow that flyeth by day' will be, largely, a frustrated knavish trick, and our prayers 'confound their devices' will have been answered. But the memory of these days and nights will have left a scar on minds already over-tired by long endurance, and the senseless destruction and purely malicious misery that has been caused will remain. I cannot express my admiration for the courage, high spirit, and readiness to aid that I have encountered everywhere, now that our Diocese has once more become the air battlefield for London. I can never forget the numbers and attention at Confirmation Services, while raids were in actual progress, or the evident determination that as far as possible, the ordinary course of life should not be dislocated. At the same time there has been a tragic and wanton destruction of well-loved homes; a loss of life that moves our hearts even though it has been relatively, miraculously small, and a most cruel strain on nerves already stretched by the long tension of prolonged hostilities. I think that some day we shall be proud that we were honoured to be fellow partners in sacrifice with our gallant armies of the Second Front when they went forth to Normandy as a crusading host of liberation. Meanwhile we have shown once more that we can 'take it.' It will help us to be strong and very courageous if each day we dedicate all we have and are to the cause of God, whatever befall."

## AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CO-OPERATION ON POST-WAR ISSUES

*The New York Times* carried the following report of a move towards closer co-operation between Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews after the war:

The initial step here toward a world meeting of national organizations of Christians and Jews soon after the end of the war was taken at the semi-annual meeting of trustees of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc.

Such a conference would symbolize the collective desire of religious and educational leaders to deal effectively and constructively with intergroup relations, according to President George N. Shuster, of Hunter-



College, Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America, and Dr. Henry S. Leiper, secretary, World Council of Churches, who presented the report recommending the calling of the conference. The three said that the meeting of minds would aid in the establishment of international solidarity and would encourage and strengthen education for better relations within each country.

"What has the Nazi attack on the morality of intergroup living cost the world? In what doctrine was that attack rooted, and what means were employed to give it momentum and an appalling, though temporary, success? And what can we do in the future to make the recurrence of such attacks, if not impossible, then at least sporadic and unsuccessful?"

"If those who have thought deeply about these matters, who have had personal experience with them, and who are now eager to find out what remedial or preventive education can do were to gather from a large number of countries in which the weight of the problem has been realized, the results of their discussion would have great value. Those who participated would learn much from one another and be strengthened in their own determination," the recommendations to the trustees said. The trustees authorized arrangements for the conference.

Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, Nobel prize winner and one of the co-chairmen of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, explained at the offices of the organization, 381, Fourth Avenue, that similar organizations in Great Britain, Canada, Australia and South Africa were working successfully on intergroup problems in their respective countries. He predicted that world meeting of national organizations of Christians and Jews would be beneficial and lasting.

Referring to the work of the National Conference in this country, Professor Compton spoke of the appeal made several days ago by the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas and Oklahoma in which Catholics were urged "to put away the spirit of apathy in matters social, civic and economic to the end that all of us may work together to re-establish as the basis of human freedom and happiness the law of justice and charity, the law of nature and of nature's God."

He pointed out that the appeal made by the Catholic bishops of the two States, directed to nearly a million Catholics in the area, stressed that the reconstruction of human society requires affirmative, whole-hearted and intelligent study, planning and collaboration by men and women who believe in God and love Him.

He said the national conference was commended by the bishops, who, he added, said: "This organization seeks to overcome bigotry, to draw citizens together in the bonds of fraternal charity, to protect the rights of all men sincerely to believe and practice what God has taught without punishment or persecution and to create a spirit of good will and fair play in the sense that a man's dignity and personality must be respected even if his religion cannot be accepted."

Dr. Everett R. Clinchey, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, submitted a report in which he said that a general improvement in religious relations had taken place, despite "some evidence of retrogression in certain localities." He noted that there was more anti-Catholic, anti-Protestant, as well as anti-Jewish talk than before the war and said that Cambridge, Mass., is the tenth city to record attacks by hoodlums on Jews, this time on Harvard University students. He attributed anti-denominational talk to four causes: latent prejudices in all groups, unethical or ill-mannered behaviour by conspicuous members of each group, Nazi indoctrination and the abrogation of normal restraint and decencies that accompanies every calamity.

#### AMERICAN ROMAN CATHOLICS SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The Committee of Catholics for Human Rights held its first membership committee in New York at the beginning of June. Senator James Murray, of Montana, is Chairman, and Archbishop Lucey, of San Antonio, the Mayor of Cleveland, Associate Justice Frank Murphy, of the United States Supreme Court, Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O., and Dr. George Shuster, President of Hunter College, are on the Committee. The committee issued the following to the N.C.W.C. for Press release:—

"A letter to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, commending his recent action in opening up conversations with the United Nations for a programme of international organization for post-war security, was unanimously adopted in the form of a resolution. It stated:—

"We heartily commend your recent action, as announced in the Press, of inviting the British, Soviet, and Chinese Governments, through their ambassadors, to open conversations for a programme of international organization for post-war security. The principles of international law and justice, and the friendly co-operation of all nations, have always been maintained in Catholic thought. That a serious effort is being made to apply these principles now in our for-



eign policy gives us much hope. Surely the common good of our own nation cannot be properly fulfilled without the realization of the common good of the society of nations of the world, united in the one family of mankind. Permanent co-operation of the four major powers, who have led the war effort, along with the other nations victimized by Nazi aggression, will be the only safeguard of the hard-earned victory. We wish you every success in this great endeavour.'

"A further resolution supporting the establishment of 'free ports' was approved and sent to President Roosevelt and to the War Refugee Board. The resolution reads:

"The establishment of 'free ports' wherein refugees can find a haven, pending plans for their permanent settlement, has our strong approval. To perform the corporal work of mercy of sheltering the homeless, the victims of Nazi persecution and injustice, is elementary Christianity and democracy.'

"A third resolution, which expresses some of the Committee's policies, was unanimously adopted. It reads:—

"Inspired by genuine Christian teaching and the principles of democracy, we are opposed to the dangerous aberration of anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism—which is the other side of the same bad coin—anti-Negro and all other racial and minority bias. How incompatible these are with democracy and Christianity should be evident to all. Unfortunately, there are some who, despite all the evidence, still do not realize that the spreading of racial and religious hatreds has become the most dangerous weapon of Nazism. Now that we are on the verge of invading fortress Europe, the enemy is exploiting this weapon more desperately. Our efforts to eradicate this poison must be even greater. We must wipe out this evil wherever it appears, in the school, the street, the home, the factory, and wherever people gather. If it is not totally eradicated, there can be no genuine peace. We shall co-operate with other groups of good will in this necessary work.'

### ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL TO HUNGARIAN CHRISTIANS

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently addressed the following message to Hungary through the B.B.C.:—

"I am eager to speak to the Christian people of Hungary, so far as I can do so, because of news sent to me through one of the most reliable of ecclesiastical neutral sources—and what I hear from that source only confirms what is reported also through other channels. The report is that a wholesale round-up of Hungarian Jews is taking

place under orders from the German Government, and that those who are carried off have little chance of survival.

"According to this report, Jews are being deported daily. Already the Eastern provinces have been cleared of Jews. Now the process is beginning in the Western districts including the capital. The conditions of travel are such that on arrival many are already dead; others are killed and cremated at Auschwitz. If the Christians of Hungary know the facts I am perfectly confident that they are also doing everything they can to save these doomed people by hiding them and helping them to escape. But it may be that inside Hungary the facts are concealed. It is for this reason that I feel bound to tell you of them, and beg you to do your utmost, even taking great personal risks, in order to save some if you can. Then you will earn in very special degree the words of approval and thanks: 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these My brethren ye did it unto Me' (Matthew, xxv. 40). I speak as a Christian who cannot help to Christians who can. For the honour of our common Christianity I implore you to do your utmost.

"(Signed) WILLIAM CANTUAR."

### BRITISH SOLDIERS IN ITALY CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CHINESE SCRIPTURES

The Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in a circular letter reports the following interesting incident:—

"Last month we received a most wonderful gift from men of the Central Mediterranean Force. A letter arrived from the Secretary of a little Y.M.C.A. fellowship in Southern Italy. It said that they first met in February for prayer and Bible study. They sought to realize the power and joy of Christian Fellowship and to learn something of its outcome, liberal giving. The letter goes on, 'We all feel that we have learnt more through giving ourselves in fellowship one to another and in giving of our money than through any other thing in our meetings. It has set a wonderful atmosphere of great joy and we are thrilled to post you a cheque for £50 (fifty), the target we very nervously set ourselves in faith to reach. It has been raised in eight collections, from a gathering of twenty-eight people who set themselves to try to make up for the little they have given to missionary work whilst away from home, in the Services.' The letter was signed by representatives of every rank, from Colonel downwards."

The gift is being used to provide a colporteur or Scriptures for men in Chiang Kai Shek's army.